

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 5, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 7, and 11-15 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Amended Four Times) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a communicator for performing two-way communications with an image output unit that includes an update unit for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches;
an input unit for inputting an image output instruction;
an acquisition unit for acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing the two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and
an image processor for performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired by said acquisition unit, quantizing the processed image data, and outputting the quantized image data to the image output unit using said communicator.

7. (Amended Four Times) An image processing apparatus connected, via a

communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, the condition information being obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit for inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

a memory for storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

a transmitter for transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

a management unit for managing an image output job of the host computer, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches,

wherein the host computer performs image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information transmitted by said transmitter, and quantizes the processed image data, and

wherein each of the plurality of image output units outputs an image based on the image data processed by the host computer.

11. (Amended Four Times) An image processing method for performing image processing in a network system to which an image output apparatus, a server, and a network terminal are connected, said method comprising:

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in the image output apparatus:

a condition measurement function of updating condition information by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches; and

a notification function of notifying the server of the updated condition information,

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in the server:

a storage function of storing the updated condition information notified from the image output apparatus in correspondence with a type of the image output apparatus;

and

a management function of managing an image output job, and

in the network terminal:

an input function of inputting an image output instruction of a user;

an acquisition function of acquiring the updated condition information stored in the server in response to the image output instruction; and

an image processing function of performing image processing using an image processing condition in accordance with the updated condition information, quantizing the processed image data, and outputting the quantized image data to said image output apparatus.

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12. (Amended Four Times) An image processing method performed in a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting an image output instruction;

an acquisition step of acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and

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an image processing step of performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired in said acquiring step, quantizing the processed image data, and outputting the quantized image data to the image output unit,

wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches.

13. (Amended Four Times) An image processing method performed in a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

a storage step of storing the inputted condition information in association with

each of the plurality of image output units;

12 a transmission step of transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

13 a management step of managing an image output job of the host computer, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches,

14 wherein the host computer performs image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information transmitted in said transmitting step, and quantizes the processed image data, and

15 wherein each of the plurality of image output units outputs an image based on the image data processed by the host computer.

14. (Amended Four Times) A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for implementing, by a computer, an image processing method, the program comprising:

16 code for a communication function of performing two-way communications with an image output unit having an update unit for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches;

code for an input function of inputting an image output instruction;
code for an acquisition function of acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing the two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and

code for an image processing function of performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired by the acquisition function, quantizing the processed image data, and outputting the quantized image data to the image output unit using the communication function.

15. (Amended Four Times) A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for an image processing method performed by a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, the program comprising:

code for an input function of inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

code for a storage function of storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

code for a transmission function of transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and